

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

## 1. A pinion carrier comprising:

a first annular body having an outer surface  
and an inner surface and a plurality of legs  
projecting from the circumference of the inner  
surface and terminating in a flat surface;

a second annular body having an outer surface  
and an inner surface and a plurality of legs  
projecting from the circumference of the inner  
surface and terminating on a flat surface; and

the flat surfaces of the legs of said first  
annular body being joined to the flat surface of  
the respective legs of the second annular body.

2. Method of producing a pinion carrier for  
planetary gear assembly comprising the steps of:

1) cold forming a first cup-shaped body  
having an outer surface and an inner surface and a  
circumferential side wall with a longitudinal  
central axis and including a plurality of spaced  
apart legs terminating in flat surfaces;

2) cold forming a second cup-shaped body  
having an outer surface and an inner surface and a  
circumferential side wall with a longitudinal  
central axis and including a plurality of spaced  
apart legs terminating in flat surfaces;

3) causing the first and second bodies to be  
positioned such that the flat surfaces of the legs

of the respective bodies are in juxtaposed  
contacting relation; and

4) welding the contacting surfaces of the  
legs of the bodies together.

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3. The method defined in Claim 2 wherein at least  
one of the cup-shaped bodies is provided with a  
centrally formed aperture.

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4. The method defined in claim 3 including the  
step of joining a torque transfer structure to  
circumscribe the aperture in one of the cup-shaped  
bodies or creating a gear/spline as an integral part of  
at least one of the cup-shaped bodies.

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5. The method defined in claim 4 including the  
step of forming planetary gear shaft apertures to extend  
from the outer surface to the inner surface of cup-  
shaped bodies.

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